

# Basic Migration and Residency Patterns Among Wilmington's “Street” Homeless Population

Stephen Metraux, PhD  
University of Delaware

Presentation to Wilmington City Council  
Subcommittee on Homelessness

May 14, 2026

"It's just not right for these other places, cities and towns to send their folks to Wilmington. The constant influx from other cities and towns makes it harder for us to care for the population here, and most importantly, it's unfair to the city residents who live in these neighborhoods."

"Since the start of the Kensington Community Revival Program, we have observed a dramatic increase of individuals experiencing homelessness within our borders."



**delaware online**



**Wilmington Mayor John Carney  
says Philadelphia is sending  
homeless to city. Is it true?**



# Let's Make Everyone Count!

National Street and Shelter Point-in-Time Count



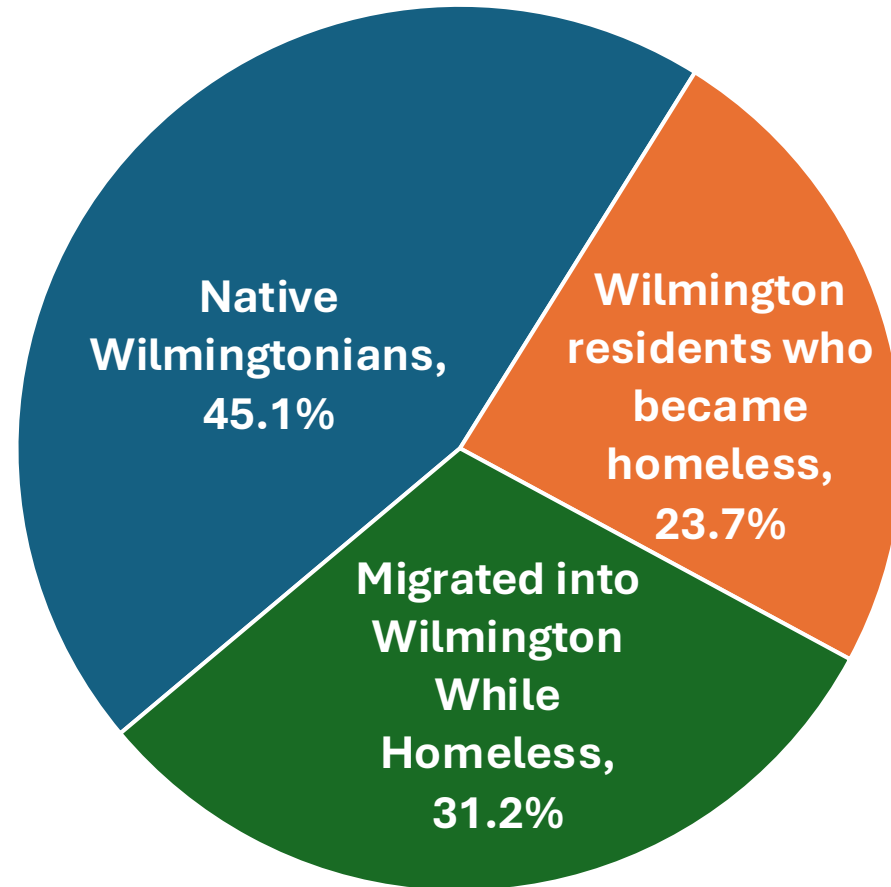
# 5 Survey Questions

- Everyone surveyed was asked:
  - Are you from Wilmington? (Yes/No)
- Those who answered “no” were asked:
  - How long have you been in Wilmington (and have not left this area)? (multiple choice answer)
  - Where were you living right before you came to Wilmington? (open ended answers for “town” and “state”)
  - What was the reason you came to Wilmington? (open ended brief answer)
  - Were you homeless when you came to from Wilmington? (yes/no)

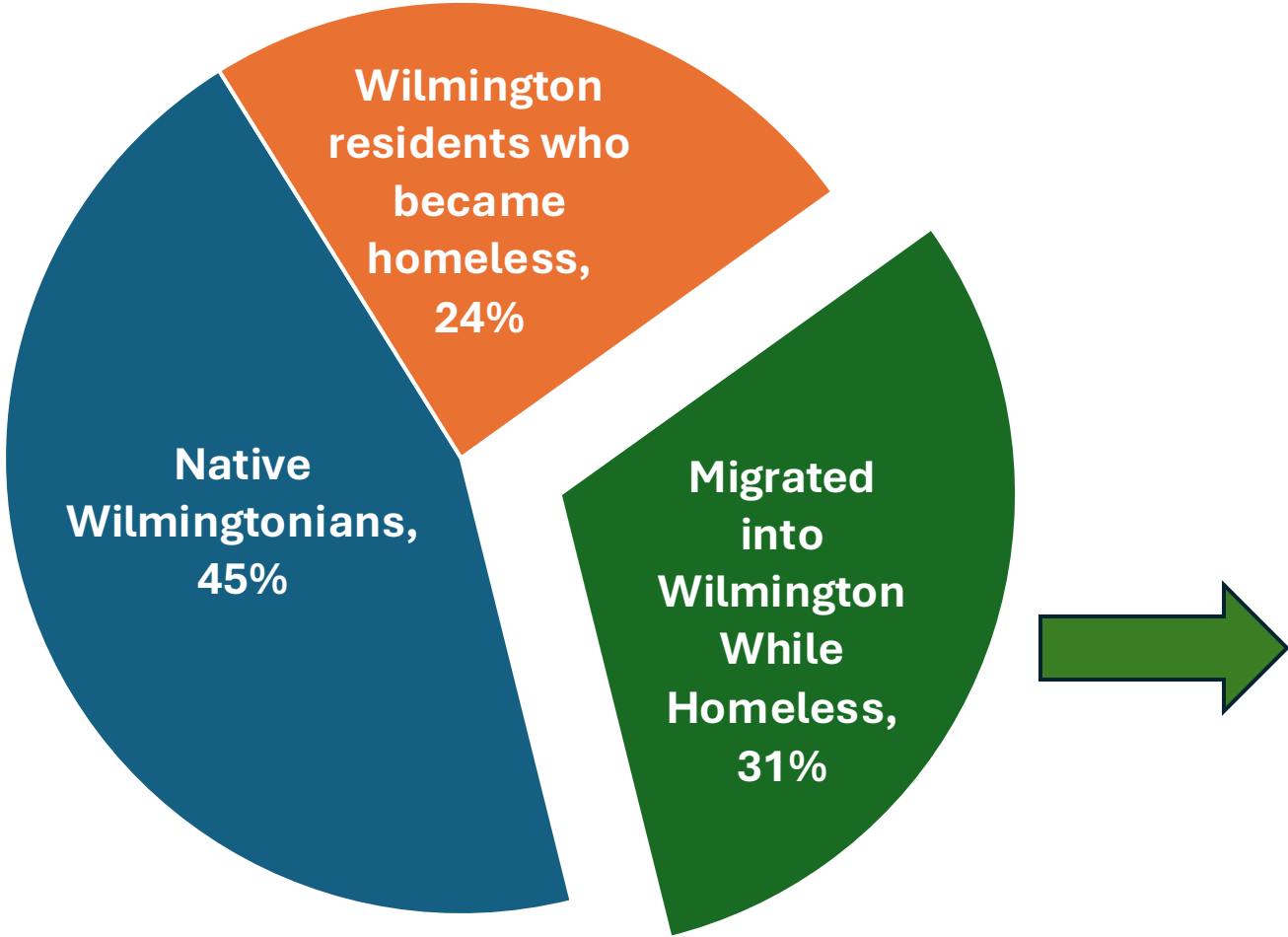


# 173 Answers

(1/3 to 1/2 of total “street” population)



# 54 Migrants



Departure Location	N	Total %
All who migrated	54	31%
Other New Castle Co.	16	9%
Kent County	5	3%
Sussex County	2	1%
<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2%</b>
Other Pennsylvania	9	5%
Maryland	5	3%
Other States/Country	13	8%